

CASE: 0937

YA5260 GRID SQUARE SEARCHING FOR ANY SIGNS OF FORMER MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE AREA. THROUGHOUT THE SEARCH, IE1 SAW NO INDICATION OF ABANDONED FIGHTING POSITIONS, REMNANTS OF BUILDINGS, OR POTENTIAL GRAVE SITES. THE AREA SHOWED NO SIGNS OF BOMBARDMENT NOR ANY INDICATION ANY MILITARY OPERATIONS HAD BEEN CONDUCTED. ON 11 DEC 1993, IE1 CONDUCTED AN EXTENSIVE AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE. IE1 PHOTOGRAPHED BOTH AREAS AND CONDUCTED AN EXTENSIVE VISUAL SEARCH USING BINOCULARS IN AN ATTEMPT TO LOCATE ANY EVIDENCE OF POSSIBLE POW CAMPS OR FIELD HOSPITALS. THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF FIGHTING POSITIONS OR ABANDONED STRUCTURES WHICH MAY HAVE ONCE SERVED AS POW CAMPS OR FIELD HOSPITALS. THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE AREA, IE1 NEVER SAW ANY INDICATIONS OF A PRISON CAMP OR HOSPITAL COMPLEX, NOR ANY POTENTIAL GRAVE SITES. AT LEAST ONE REPORT (DTG 260739Z JAN 93, FROM USDAO BANGKOK TH//PW-MIA//) INDICATES THE V-211 HOSPITAL AND CAMPS 101 AND 102 WERE HEAVILY BOMBED. THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE AREA, IE1 NEVER SAW EVEN ONE BOMB CRATER. IE1 DID NOT FIND ANY INHABITANTS IN THE AREA AND NO WITNESSES WERE INTERVIEWED REFERENCING CASE 0937. (REF 10)

=== ARCHIVAL RESEARCH INFORMATION ===

28 September 1993

SRV DOCUMENT PROVIDED ON 18 APR 93, TITLED "LIST OF AMERICAN PRISONERS THAT DIED IN THE SOUTH AFTER THEIR CAPTURE," PROBABLY CORRELATES TO REFNO 0937-1-01. LINE ENTRY #20 PROBABLY CORRELATES BASED ON PARTIAL NAME, RANK, APPROXIMATE DATES OF INCIDENT AND DATE OF DEATH. (REF 6)

15 October 1993

ON 1 SEP 93, THE VIETNAMESE TURNED OVER BRIEF CASE ASSESSMENTS FOR EACH OF THE 27 DIED IN CAPTIVITY CASES. THE ASSESSMENTS WERE IN RESPONSE TO A U.S. PRESENTATION OF THE D.I.C. LIST AS A GUIDE FOR SPECIAL REMAINS TEAM INVESTIGATION. ONE OF THESE CASES WAS REFNO 0937, WHICH THE VIETNAMESE RECOMMENDED WOULD REQUIRE EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION UNTIL IT CAN BE RESOLVED. (REF 7)

JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING

BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 5 JANUARY 1994

----- BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION -----

REFNO: 0945-1-01 (ACCNO 6155) Status: (K) REMAINS RECOVERED
Name: COOK, WILMER PAUL Date Status assigned: 26 Sep 1989

Nationality	AMERICAN	Race	CAUCASIAN	Blood Chit	DATA
Service	NAVY	Sex	MALE	Blood type	O #
Grade	O4	Hair	BROWN	Complexion	#
SSAN	DATA	Eyes	BLUE	Weapon	#
Serial No	603915	Height	70 in / 1.78 mtrs	Weapon No	#
Birth date	1 Oct 1932	Weight	186 lb / 84.3 kg	Duty pos	PILOT
Home State	MARYLAND	Religion	PROTESTANT	PW Camp	\$

----- SITE INFORMATION -----

	INCIDENT LOCATION (0)	LAST KNOWN LOCATION (1)
Site Type:	CRASH SITE	SECONDARY SITE
UTM:	48QWF906419	48QWF905419
Lat/Long:	182801N / 1055130E	182801N / 1055126E
Country:	NORTH VIETNAM	
Military Region:	4	
Mission Province:	HA TINH	
(formerly):		
Mission District:	THACH HA	
Mission Date:	22 Dec 1967	
Mission Category:	3	
Local Analysis:	None.	Near populated area.

----- JTF-FA ACTIVITY SUMMARY -----

Remains Repatriated: YES
Folders Passed: Aug 87, Nov 85
Vessey Case: NO
Case type: DISCREPANCY
Survivability: (1) Out of the aircraft at the time of the crash

----- VEHICLE DATA -----

Vehicle Type:	A4E	Serial:	152071
Crash Type:	Enemy action	Engine Type:	J52
Call Sign:	SADDLEBACK 506	1 Serial:	
Year:	\$	2 Serial:	\$

----- SPECIAL CHARACTER KEY -----

- Item has been researched but data cannot be obtained.
\$ - Item is not applicable to this case.
@ or Blank - Data for item is unknown or not available.

CASE: 0945

--- CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS ---

9 April 1976

ON 22 DECEMBER 1967, LCDR WILMER P. COOK WAS THE PILOT OF AN A4E AIRCRAFT, (BUNO #152071, CALL SIGN SADDLEBACK 506), LAUNCHED FROM THE USS CORAL SEA ON A COMBAT MISSION OVER NORTH VIETNAM. AFTER LCDR COOK INITIATED A BOMBING RUN, HIS WINGMAN SAW THAT LCDR COOK'S AIRCRAFT WAS IN FLAMES. THE WINGMAN ADVISED HIM TO HEAD FOR THE SEA AND EJECT, BUT THEN WITNESSED THE AIRCRAFT CRASH SOME TWO MILES FROM THE COAST, IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES WF 906 419.

THE WINGMAN COULD SEE THAT THE PILOT AND A PARACHUTE, WHICH WAS JUST SETTLING ON THE GROUND, WERE LOCATED ABOUT 100 YARDS FROM THE CRASH SITE, BUT HE REPORTED THAT THE PILOT WAS LYING MOTIONLESS, FACE DOWN IN ABOUT SIX INCHES OF WATER IN A RICE PADDY. THE WINGMAN MADE ABOUT 12 LOW PASSES AT PERSONNEL ON THE GROUND WHO WERE APPROACHING THE DOWNED PILOT, KEEPING THEM AWAY, BUT LCDR COOK STILL WAS MOTIONLESS. A SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM OF FIXED WING AND HELICOPTER AIRCRAFT RELIEVED THE WINGMAN AFTER ABOUT 15 MINUTES, AND THE HELICOPTER PILOT HOVERED OVER LCDR COOK FOR ABOUT 30 SECONDS.

HE WAS ABLE TO ASCERTAIN ONLY THAT LCDR COOK WAS DEAD BEFORE THE HELICOPTER WAS DRIVEN AWAY BY SMALL ARMS FIRE. THE BODY COULD NOT BE RECOVERED. LCDR COOK DID CARRY A SURVIVAL-TYPE RADIO, BUT AT NO TIME DURING THE INCIDENT WAS THERE A VOICE OR BEEPER SIGNAL TRANSMISSION. A RELEASEE STATED THAT WHILE ENROUTE FROM HIS POINT OF CAPTURE TO A HOLDING CAMP NEAR VINH, NORTH VIETNAM, HE WAS SHOWN LCDR COOK'S IDENTIFICATION CARD ALONG WITH THE PERSONAL CONTENTS OF HIS WALLET BY A NORTH VIETNAMESE GUARD. (REF 1 & 2)

DURING THE EXISTENCE OF JCRC, THE HOSTILE THREAT IN THE AREA PRECLUDED ANY VISITS TO OR GROUND INSPECTIONS OF THE SITE INVOLVED IN THIS CASE. THIS INDIVIDUAL'S NAME AND IDENTIFYING DATA WERE TURNED OVER TO THE FOUR-PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM WITH A REQUEST FOR ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE. NO RESPONSE WAS FORTHCOMING. LCDR COOK IS CURRENTLY CARRIED IN THE PRESUMPTIVE STATUS OF DEAD, BODY NOT RECOVERED.

--- SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION ---

13 December 1993

RETIRED COLONEL FEODOROVICH ZHELEZNYAK, A FORMER SOVIET ADVISOR TO VIETNAMESE ANTIAIRCRAFT ARTILLERY FORCES DURING THE WAR, REPORTED THAT ON 22 DECEMBER 1967, A U.S. PILOT WAS KILLED NEAR HA TINH CITY AFTER PARACHUTING FROM AN A-4 AIRCRAFT. BASED ON THE DATE, LOCATION, AIRCRAFT TYPE AND FATE OF THE PILOT, THE INFORMATION PROVIDED CORRELATED WELL WITH THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS ASSOCIATED WITH REFNO 0945. (REF 4)

CASE: 0945

--- REFERENCES ---

9 April 1976

REFERENCES USED: <1> \ MSG, USS CORAL SEA, 221245Z DEC 67. <2> , MSG 1ST CSG, 262307Z MAR 73. <3> MSG, CDRPERSCOM ALEXANDRIA VA /TAPC-PED-ASGRO/ 261730Z SEP 89. <4> AMEMBASSY MOSCOW, 101756Z NOV 93; CDR, JTF-FA/J2 290022Z NOV 93.

--- NEGOTIATION ACTIONS ---

10 March 1980

A NEGOTIATION FOLDER FOR THIS INDIVIDUAL WAS PROVIDED TO THE SRV IN HANOI ON 11 AUG 79 BY MEMBERS OF THE WOLFF DELEGATION. ANOTHER FOLDER WAS PASSED AT THE 13-15NOV 85 JCRC TECH MEETING IN HANOI.

4 December 1987

A CASE NARRATIVE PERTAINING TO WILMER P. COOK WAS PASSED BY JCRC ON 4 AUG 87 TO THE SRV EMBASSY IN BANGKOK PURSUANT TO AGREEMENTS REACHED BETWEEN GENERAL VESSEY AND SRV FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN CO THACH.

--- MAJOR COORDINATE CHANGE ---

10 April 1976

INCIDENT LOCATION CHANGED FROM WF967419 TO WF906419 AND SECONDARY SITE OF WF905419 ENTERED BASED ON MSG, USS CORAL SEA, 221245Z DEC 67.

--- REPATRIATION ACTIONS OR STATUS CHANGES ---

4 October 1989

ON 15 DECEMBER 1988, THE SRV REPATRIATED THE ALLEGED REMAINS OF WILMER COOK IN BOX # 16. ON 26 SEPTEMBER 1989, THE ARMED FORCES IDENTIFICATION REVIEW BOARD APPROVED THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE REMAINS AS LCDR WILMER P. COOK (REFNO 0945-01). (REF 3)